

# Behind the Steele Star

Sheriff Lon Thiele  
Chief Deputy Scott Hanson

## Steele Star is now on the County website

The Steele Star newsletter is now available on the Steele County website. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter subscribe by clicking on the link below. Locate the page titled 'Sheriff's Newsletter' and chose if you want to receive notifications by e-mail or text. You can also click on the link under Page Links to view past editions of the newsletter.

<https://www.co.steele.mn.us/enotify/index.php>

## 42 deaths on southeast Minnesota roads

42 people have died on roadways in southeast Minnesota this year. Share this video with family and friends as a reminder to buckle up and drive safe to your destination.

[Heartbreaking—2020 SE MN traffic fatalities](#)

## Submit your questions and concerns

Do you have a question you've been wanting answered? Or a concern you want to address? Send them in, they might even become a topic in a future newsletter.

Our new e-mail address is: [SteeleStar@co.steele.mn.us](mailto:SteeleStar@co.steele.mn.us)

## Services offered:

**Snowbird:** *a person who migrates from the colder parts of North America to warmer southern locales, typically in the winter.*

The Sheriff's Office provides extra patrols for individuals who exhibit snowbird behaviors. If you want your residence put our on watch list contact the Sheriff's Office at 507-444-3800.

## A New Year is Upon Us

The Steele County Sheriff's Office would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! If you plan on drinking, secure a sober ride. If you see an impaired person about to get behind the wheel, speak up and find them a safe ride home. Encourage family and friend to make safe choices behind the wheel.



## November Highlights

- Busiest day of week: Sunday
- Busiest hour of day: 9:00 pm
- Total # of events: 1,599
- Average events/day: 53
- Average events/hour: .45
- Average traffic stops/hour: .40
- DWIs for the month: 6
- Permit to carry: 95
- Permit to purchase: 26
- Civil papers served: 85



## Sheriff's Blotter

- A 32 year old male was arrested for driving while impaired.
- A 20 year old male was cited for fleeing and driving without a valid license after fleeing from the vehicle, falling in the ditch, and ultimately complying with commands to return to the scene.
- A 19 year old female was cited for providing a false name during the previously mentioned fleeing incident.
- A 54 year old male was arrested for driving while impaired.
- A 20 year old male was arrested for driving while impaired.

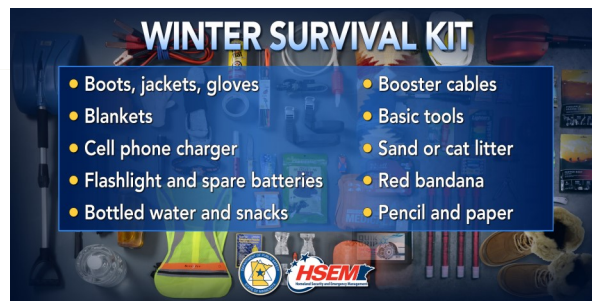
## Deaths on Minnesota Roadways up

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety released data following a recent campaign. Officers, deputies and troopers throughout Minnesota reported 1,556 seat belt citations and 52 child seat citations. From January 1st to December 1st, 2020 93 unbelted motorists have died on Minnesota roads, compared to 66 at this time last year.

To see the full news article including areas where the most seat-belt citations were issued, peculiar stories from traffic stops, and points relating to the child car seat law, click on the link [here](#).

## Winter Driving

Winter weather is upon us. Now is the time to ensure you are prepared if you were to find yourself stranded while traveling. Having the



items listed in the winter survival kit available in your vehicle can help get you through until emergency responders arrive. Use extreme caution when traveling in extreme weather conditions and leave plenty of extra time to get to your destination.

## Extra DWI Enforcement on Minnesota Roads

The Steele County Sheriff's Office is joining more than 300 agencies statewide in extra DWI enforcement running weekends through December. If you plan on drinking, find a sober ride. Don't let friends drink and drive.



According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety, 364 people lost their lives in 2019 crashes.

2025 Goal is to reduce traffic-related deaths to 225 or fewer...

### YTD FATAL COUNT UPDATE

2020 YTD compared to 2019

393	358
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#### *Pedestrians*

44	49
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#### *Motorcyclists*

64	44
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#### *Bicyclists*

10	11
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**IMPAIRED DRIVING KILLS**  
**THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT**

**DRIVE SOBER!**  
**DRIVE SMART!**

## Did you know?

### Trespassing on railroad tracks

Minnesota Statute 609.85 subdivision 6 makes it a crime to trespass on railroad tracks. The statute reads *"Whoever intentionally trespasses, or who permits animals under the person's control to trespass on a railroad track, yard, or bridge is guilty of a misdemeanor."*

### Vehicle thefts on the rise

Law enforcement has seen an uptick in vehicle thefts recently, many due to leaving vehicles running while warming up. Here are some tips to prevent your vehicle from being stolen:

- Keep your vehicle locked at all times.
- Never leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Close all windows, doors and sunroofs.
- Never leave your car running and unattended.
- Avoid leaving valuables inside. If you must, put them in a place they are not visible.
- Keep your title stored somewhere other than inside the vehicle.
- Park in well lit areas and be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid high crime areas or use alternate routes.
- Use your emergency brake when parking.

### Sheriff's Association Mailer

The Minnesota Sheriff's Association recently sent out their fall mailing to roughly 35,000 households throughout the state. The mailer introduces individuals to become friends, supporters and members of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association. It also serves as a fundraiser as they DO NOT solicit via phone. The mailer is NOT a scam, but a way to reach out to more community members wishing to support law enforcement. If anyone has questions about the Minnesota Sheriff's Association they can contact Jean Lusch at 651-451-7216 or email [jlusch@mnsheriffs.org](mailto:jlusch@mnsheriffs.org).

### Check to Protect

Auto recalls can be deadly. All drivers should make safety a priority by checking their vehicles - and getting them repaired immediately. Safety repairs are free at all car dealerships. Visit [www.checktoprotect.org](http://www.checktoprotect.org) to check your vehicle.



### Excuses for speeding

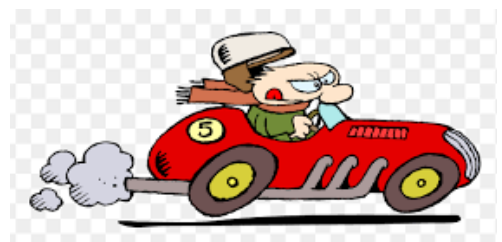
Law enforcement hear excuses for speeding all the time. Here are a few creative examples:

"I wasn't speeding; I just got a haircut and it makes me look fast."

"I thought the sign I-95 meant the speed limit."

"I have a cold, and when I cough my foot mashes the pedal."

"I have to use the restroom."







If you have information pertaining to the current whereabouts of any individuals pictured below, please call 507-451-8232. Do NOT confront these individuals.

# STEELE COUNTY'S MOST WANTED

SHANNON ARMONE GUY

STALKING



JASON HORNER

DRUGS 3RD DEGREE



CARL FRANKLIN SWANSON

PREDATORY OFFENDER



KODIE WILLIAM SWENSON

BURGLARY 3RD DEGREE



RICHARD ALLEN MILLER JR

DANCO VIOLATION



DALE WALTERS

POSSESS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

